

# **THE LEONARD LETTER**

*A weekly electronic newsletter*

*Bill Leonard, Member*

*State Board of Equalization*

March 1, 2004

*"Toleration is good for all, or it is good for none."*

*-- Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797)*

## **AROUND THE STATE**

### **\*\*\*Diversity and Free Speech Under Assault at SF State\*\*\***

When I served in the legislature I was horrified by the number of college students who were being persecuted for speaking their minds. This happened as "political correctness" swept college campuses and was used as a tool mainly against conservative ideas. Let me be clear: I do not expect the cultures at our universities to mimic my own political thinking – this is not the point. The point is to make sure that students who exercise their First Amendment rights, whether for ideas on the right or left, are protected from assault and punishment from others on campuses, whether it be fellow students or the administration itself. The law I authored was intended to protect the free speech rights of all students in California, and so I am appalled at a situation at San Francisco State University.

That school, for whatever reason, has an imbedded culture that is very pro-Palestinian. It has been reported that some of Yasser Arafat's top aides are alumni of SFSU. Enter Tatiana Menaker, a Russian émigré and a Jewish refusnik under the Communist regime who came to America with two kids and \$90 in her pocket. She enrolled at SFSU a few years ago and now finds herself kicked out of school and threatened with arrest if she so much as steps foot on campus. From what I gather, her only crime is standing up to grotesque anti-Semitism and anti-American thought on that campus. An account of her story, which includes eyewitness reporting of an ugly anti-Jewish counter-protest on campus last spring, can be found here:

<http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/ReadArticle.asp?ID=12354>

This sort of thing cannot stand. I call on the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees to get personally involved in making sure that university staff is not coddling anti-Semites. The school also needs to stop providing public facilities to those who support the death-cult mentality of radical Islam. The President of the college wrote a letter that is a first step: <http://www.sfsu.edu/%7Enews/response/values.htm>. However, why campus police refused to protect Jewish students or their free speech rights still needs to be answered.

### **\*\*\*Overheard Schwarzenegger\*\*\***

The Governor has spent the last week traveling up and down the state campaigning for Propositions 57 and 58, the keystones of his fiscal recovery plan. At an appearance in Orange County last week, the Governor was strong in speaking about the need for the measures but he struck an appropriate chord of humor with several of his remarks. First he noted that his legal team is uncovering many things he did not know about his gubernatorial powers. For example, he said, he could just grant himself an Academy Award, something for which he has been overlooked for 25 years. The audience chuckled as he references one of his first films and was self-deprecating about his own performance in it. Then he spoke about the need to help California's schools, especially since most students cannot even spell simple words and names, like, for example, the surname of their own Governor. The audience laughed knowingly when he explained his wife's absence by saying he had sent her to campaign for the measures in the Bay Area with Senator John Burton since they are both Democrats. This Governor's confidence and demeanor remind us that true leaders connect with people through their words and actions, as well as their policies.

## **TAX CORNER**

### **\*\*\*Millions and Millions Owed\*\*\***

Recently I shared an AP article about Georgia's public list of delinquent taxpayers, which including several elected officials. While California does not have a similar list for income tax delinquents, Board-sponsored legislation requires the publication of a list of not more than 12 of the state's largest sales and use tax delinquencies. One taxpayer who appeared on this list paid the amount of \$1,676,941.24. The 12 who appear on the list now owe the state more than \$52 million. Check out the delinquents for yourself at <http://www.boe.ca.gov/sutax/topdebt.htm>

## **MISCELLANY**

### **\*\*\*Great Books III\*\*\***

Out of my previous series on 100 Words to Know list I have been asked by many of you to present a recommended list of books to read. This week I am featuring the junior curriculum at Thomas Aquinas College of Santa Paula, California. The college's curriculum can be summed up as giving a comprehensive look at the history of the ideas of Western civilization, from Plato to Freud. They reveal the reality at the core of human experience, a reality that - regardless of time or place - does not change. These are the books that have the power to shape human events and to change lives. The college points out that not all of these works are of equal weight. Some are regarded as

masterworks, while others serve as sources of opinions that either lead students to the truth, or make truth more evident by opposition to it. The full list can be found at:  
<http://www.thomasaquinas.edu/curriculum/>

## Junior Year

Seminar – Cervantes: DON QUIXOTE. St. Thomas Aquinas: ON KINGSHIP, SUMMA THEOLOGIAE. Machiavelli: THE PRINCE, DISCOURSES. Bacon: THE GREAT INSTAURATION, NOVUM ORGANUM. Shakespeare: JULIUS CAESAR, KING RICHARD THE SECOND, KING HENRY THE FOURTH, HAMLET, KING LEAR, OTHELLO, MACBETH, TWELFTH NIGHT, THE TEMPEST, SONNETS. Montaigne: ESSAYS. Descartes: DISCOURSE ON METHOD, MEDITATIONS, RULES FOR THE DIRECTION OF THE MIND. Pascal: PENSEES. Hobbes: LEVIATHAN. Locke: ESSAY CONCERNING HUMAN UNDERSTANDING, SECOND ESSAY ON CIVIL GOVERNMENT. Berkeley: TREATISE CONCERNING HUMAN UNDERSTANDING. Hume: AN ENQUIRY CONCERNING HUMAN UNDERSTANDING. Swift: GULLIVER’S TRAVELS. Milton: PARADISE LOST. Gibbon: DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE. Corneille: LE CID. Racine: PHAEDRE. Rousseau: SOCIAL CONTRACT, DISCOURSE ON THE ORIGIN OF INEQUALITY. Spinoza: THEOLOGICO-POLITICAL TREATISE. Various authors: ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION, DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, U.S. CONSTITUTION. Hamilton, Madison, Jay: FEDERALIST PAPERS. Smith: WEALTH OF NATIONS. Kant: PROLEGOMENA TO ANY FUTURE METAPHYSICS, CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON, GROUNDWORK FOR THE METAPHYSICS OF MORALS. Leibniz: DISCOURSE ON METAPHYSICS.

Music – Plato: TIMAEUS. Boethius: ON MUSIC. Mozart: SONATAS. Gustin: TONALITY.

Mathematics – Viete: STANDARD ENUMERATION OF GEOMETRIC RESULTS, INTRODUCTION TO THE ANALYTIC ART. Descartes: GEOMETRY. Archimedes: QUADRATURE OF THE PARABOLA. Griffin: MATHEMATICAL ANALYSIS. Various authors: MATHEMATICAL WORKS OF HIPPOCRATES, ARCHIMEDES, CAVALIERI, PASCAL, LEIBNIZ, BERNOULLI, NEWTON, BERKELEY, BALZANO, ET ALIA.

Laboratory – Descartes: PRINCIPLES OF PHILOSOPHY. Galileo: TWO NEW SCIENCES. Newton: MATHEMATICAL PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.

Philosophy – Aristotle: NICOM. ETHICS, POLITICS.

Theology – St. Thomas Aquinas: SUMMA THEOLOGIAE: ON SACRED DOCTRINE, ON GOD, ON LAW.

## **BOE AND LEGISLATIVE DATES**

**March 2, 2004** --- California primary election

**March 31, 2004** --- Cesar Chavez holiday

**April 1, 2004** --- Legislature's spring recess begins upon adjournment

**April 12, 2004** --- Legislature reconvenes

**April 15, 2004** --- Federal income tax filing deadline

## **NOTABLE DATES/ HISTORY**

**March 1, 1780** --- Pennsylvania becomes first U.S. state to abolish slavery (for newborns only)

**March 1, 1781**--- Continental Congress adopts Articles of Confederation

**March 1, 1872** --- Yellowstone becomes world's first national park

**March 2, 1799** --- Congress standardizes U.S. weights & measures

**March 2, 1807** --- Congress bans slave trade effective January 1, 1808

**March 2, 1939** --- Mass. Legislature vote to ratify the Bill of Rights; 147 years late

**March 3, 1791** --- First Internal Revenue Act (taxing distilled spirits & carriages)

**March 3, 1837** --- Congress increases Supreme Court membership from 7 to 9

**March 3, 1931** --- "Star Spangled Banner" officially becomes U.S. national anthem

**March 3, 1933** --- Mount Rushmore dedicated

**March 4, 1801** --- First President inaugurated in Washington, D.C. (Thomas Jefferson)

**March 4, 1881** --- California becomes 1st state to pass plant quarantine legislation

**March 4, 1917** --- Jeannette Rankin (Representative-Republican-MT) becomes first female member of Congress

**March 5, 1770** --- The Boston Massacre takes place when British soldiers kill five colonists who had been taunting them

**March 6, 1857** --- The U.S. Supreme Court rules that slave Dred Scott cannot sue for his freedom in federal court

**March 7, 1801** --- Massachusetts enacts 1st state voter registration law

## **GENERAL TAX INFORMATION**

For answers to your general tax questions, call the Board of Equalization information center. Customer service representatives are available to help you from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific time, Monday through Friday (except state holidays).

Toll-free number: 800-400-7115  
TDD service for the hearing impaired  
TDD phones: 800-735-2929  
Voice phones: 800-735-2922

To reach the Taxpayer Rights Advocate's office, call toll-free 1-888-324-2798.

## **HOW TO CONTACT ME**

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